Conversion of Rangia-Munkongelek Section of NF Railway

333. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have decided to drop the Plan for gauge conversion of Rangia-Munkongselek section of NF Railway;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the Plan finalized and being implemented for completion of the project, sector-wise progress made so far, budgetary allocation made and proposed to be made; and

(d) any other Plan to improve this sector and to protect the track from floods and erosion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, due to heavy throwfor ward and large shelf of projects under gauge conversion, it has been decided not to take up gauge conversion from Rangia to Balukpong for the present and to consider the project for being taken up after other gauge conversion works in the region get completed and work on Bogibeel Bridge is taken up. A survey for gauge conversion of Baliapara to Munkongselek and Rangapara to Tejpur is in progress. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the Survey Report becomes available.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Adequate protection measures are taken during the flood reasons to protect the track from floods and erosion to the extent possible.